

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /076 W
-----061839 110346Z /15

R 100942Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7128
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 4641

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PK, SHUM
SUBJECT: IMPRISONMENT AND LASHES GIVEN TO HUNGER STRIKERS IN SIND

REF: (A) ISLAMABAD 4549

1. A SUMMARY MILITARY COURT IN HYDERABAD (SIND) 9 MAY SENTENCED TWO UNION ORGANIZERS WHO HAD BEEN ON HUNGER STRIKE IN SYMPATHY WITH THE JOURNALISTS IN LAHORE (REFTEL) TO ONE YEARS'S HARD LABOR (RIGOROUS IMPRISONMENT) AND TEN LASHES. TWO OTHER PRO-TESTORS IN HYDERABAD WERE ALSO REPORTEDLY TAKEN INTO CUSTODY ON THE SAME DATE.

2. THE LAHORE STRIKE CONTINUES, WITH FOUR PERSONS SUCCESSFULLY COURTING ARREST DAILY. THE PRESS REPORTS THAT THE SUMMARY MILITARY TRIAL OF EIGHT PERSONS ARRESTED OVER THE PAST WEEK IN LAHORE HAS ENTERED ITS SECOND DAY OF HEARINGS.

3. COMMENT: THE SIND MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION TO SENTENCE THE HYDERABAD LABOR ORGANIZERS TO LASHES --
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A PUNISHMENT SO FAR AVOIDED IN THE LAHORE CASES (REFTEL) -- MAY REFLECT NOTHING MORE THAN A TOUGHER ATTITUDE TOWARD PUNISHMENT ON THE PART OF THE ZONE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR. IF IT HAS BEEN CONCERTED WITH LAHORE AND ISLAMABAD, HOWEVER, THE TOUGHER SENTENCE MAY REFLECT THE DESIRE OF THE GOVERNMENT TO SIGNAL CLEARLY THAT WHILE IT IS WILLING TO WAIT OUT THE DISPUTE IN

LAHORE, IT HAS NO INTENTION OF LETTING THE CONFRONTATION
WITH THE JOURNALISTS AND THEIR LABOR SUPPORTERS SPREAD
TO OTHER AREAS. HHQYMEL

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Message Attributes

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